

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9486

INFO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE 1163

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO CG PDEV

SUBJECT: ANGOLAN CHITCHAT

1. TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TIBANDEBAGE, HERE SINCE MAY '72 ON HIS SECOND TOUR AS TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR TO ZAIRE, SAYS HE AND HIS GOVERNMENT GREATLY REGRET FAILURE SO FAR OF ANGOLAN FACTIONS TO UNITE. HE ATTRIBUTES THIS LARGELY TO NETO AND TO SOVIET PRESSURES ON NETO. HE SAYS SOVIET MOTIVES ARE INEXPLICABLE BUT PRESUMPTION IS THAT THEY SEEK INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA THROUGH NETO. HE CLEARLY VIEWS SOVIET MACHINATIONS IN UGANDA AS ILL-CONCEIVED AND LIKELY TO BACKFIRE.

2. HE ASSESSED MOBUTU-SPINOLA MEETING AS HIGHLY POSITIVE. WHILE NOT ENTIRELY EXCLUDING CHANCE THAT FRENCH PUT BONGO UP TO HIS CRITICAL REMARKS, HE THINKS IT MORE LIKELY THAT BONGO SLIPPED WITHOUT THINKING THROUGH WHAT HE WAS SAYING. IN ANY CASE, HE SAYS MOBUTU OVER-REACTED AND WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER TO IGNORE ENTIRE INCIDENT

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WHICH THEN WOULD HAVE GONE LARGELY UNNOTICED.

3. HE SAID HE HAD NO EXPLANATION FOR PRESENCE OF BULA MANDUNGU AT MEETING WITH SPINOLA AND HE WAS PUZZLED BY ABSENCE OF TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS. MOREOVER, HE WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT MOKOLO WA MPOMPO, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS MOBOTU'S KISSINGER, WOULD HAVE BEEN THERE. HE THOUGHT IT INTERESTING THAT HOLDEN ROBERTO AND DANIEL CHIPENDA HAD BOTH SEEN MOBOTU OFF AND MET HIM UPON HIS RETURN. HE THEN SAID "PERSONALLY SPEAKING" IF THE ANGOLANS DON'T GET TOGETHER, THE WHOLE LOT SHOULD BE DROPPED AND NEW LEADERS FOUND.

4. FINALLY, TIBANDEBAGE, WHO ONLY RETURNED FROM LEAVE LAST WEEK, SAID HE WAS LEAVING TOMORROW (SEPT 24) FOR DAR ES SALAAM FOR ABOUT A WEEK. HE DIDN'T VOLUNTEER WHY BUT PRESUMABLY SOMETHING IS COOKING BETWEEN MOBOTU AND NYERERE WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS THE BEST OF FRIENDS WORKING CLOSELY TOGETHER IN SEEKING ANGOLAN INDEPENDENCE.
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